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ABSTRACT

The most important thing that parents can do to help their children become ready to read and to learn is to read aloud to them. This brief provides guidance for parents in facilitating their child's emerging abilities. Suggestions for parents include talking with infants and young children before they learn to read, setting aside a reading time every day regardless of their child's age, taking their child to the library, and pointing out printed words to the child in the home and in the community. The brief also lists strategies for creating strong readers, including specific strategies used during reading sessions with children, such as discussing new words and asking questions. (KB)

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A GUIDE FOR PARENTS
How Can I Help My Child Be Ready to Read and Ready to Learn?

"As parents, the most important thing we can do is read to our children early and often. Reading is the path to success in school and life. When children learn to love books, they learn to love learning."
(First Lady Laura Bush)

- Talk with infants and young children before they learn to read. Talk with and listen to your child as you play and do daily activities together.
- Set aside a reading time every day (30 minutes is ideal) and read to your child no matter what the age of your child. Help your child to learn new words and their meaning.
- Take your child to the library, get your child a library card, and let him or her choose books to read at home.
- Create a special place in your home for your child to draw, read, and write. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can reach them.
- Take books and writing materials for your child with you whenever you leave home, so he or she can read or write at the doctor's office, on the bus, and in the car.
- Point out to your child the printed words in your home and in the community.
- Help your child see that reading is important. Suggest reading as a free-time activity. Set a good example for your child by reading newspapers, magazines, and books frequently and in front of your child.
- Restrict the amount and kind of TV your child watches.
- Reach out to libraries and community and faith-based organizations. These organizations can:
  - Help you find books and other reading materials to use at home.
  - Supply you with information on how you can help your child read and learn.
  - Help you find a volunteer reading tutor to work with your child.
  - Provide free summer programs for your child that emphasize reading and writing.
  - Offer a safe, educational, and supervised place for your child to read and learn.

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PARTNERSHIP FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

Read With Children - It Makes A Difference!

Simple Strategies for Creating Strong Readers

Without doubt, reading with children spells success for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

Through reading aloud, providing print materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you can have a powerful impact on children's literacy and learning.

Tips For Success

1. Invite a child to read with you every day.

2. When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.

3. Read a child's favorite book over and over again.

4. Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.

5. Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?

6. Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.

7. Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

Reading well is at the heart of all learning. Children who can't read well, can't learn. Help make a difference for a child.

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